

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD**



**Approved
MINUTES
GRANITE REEF SENIOR CENTER
1700 N. GRANITE REEF RD, RM. 12
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2006**

PRESENT: Brian Munson, Vice-Chair
Jimmy Leung
Bill Gill
James McCay

ABSENT: James Mulloy
Michele Cohen
Ron Hand

STAFF: Larry Person
Andrew Kocisky
Chuck Skidmore

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Basinger

1) CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Munson called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

2) ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF 11/29/06 MEETING MINUTES

A formal roll call confirmed the presence of members as noted above. Mr. Person noted that a quorum was present.

Board Member McCay noted that the meeting date was missed from the draft minutes. On page 3, Mr. Shaeffer is Executive Director of the Valley of the Sun Clean Cities Coalition.

BOARD MEMBER LEUNG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2006 AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER MUNSON AND CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

3) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

7) **UPDATE - Sustainability Indicators Report**

Mr. Kocisky reported that over the last couple of months, staff have attempted to gather two or more additional years of data for all 34 indicators in the report. Of these, 27 are now complete. He stated that data for the cost of living indicator has not been available to the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce since 2001, so staff have been unable to obtain this data. The Department of Economic Vitality has responded by providing average median income data. Staff recommend dropping the cost of living indicator from the current format. The data is hard to obtain and the local housing market makes it hard to interpret the data. Staff believe that the other indicators which are readily available give useful information.

In response to a question by Vice-Chair Munson, Mr. Kocisky explained that the Chamber of Commerce no longer subscribes to the national cost of living indicator because the numbers were not relevant to Scottsdale. After discussion, Vice-Chair Munson suggested putting a place holder under cost of living with an explanation that this information is no longer readily available, but cost of living is primarily a function of house affordability. Mr. Person added that this explanation might also be mentioned in the cover letter. He noted that the data in the past was not a straight comparison and recommended eliminating the page entirely.

Mr. Kocisky reported that staff aim to publish the report on February 1st. However, by waiting two more weeks, significantly more 2006 data could be included.

BOARD MEMBER MCCAY MOVED THE REMOVAL OF THE COST OF LIVING INDICATOR DATA, WITH A NOTE IN THE REPORT THAT THIS INFORMATION IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE. BOARD MEMBER LEUNG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

BOARD MEMBER LEUNG MADE A MOTION TO PUSH BACK THE PUBLICATION DATE FROM FEBRUARY 1ST TO FEBRUARY 15TH, 2007, IN ORDER TO INCORPORATE MORE RECENT DATA. BOARD MEMBER GILL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

Board Members McCay and Leung asked how indicators might be added in the future. Mr. Person opined that this would be within the purview of EQAB. A discussion ensued. Mr. Basinger asked what use is being made of the report. Mr. Person stated that the point of publishing the report is to give raw data and trend information that the City can use for strategic decision making. Board Member Leung would like to add the use of clean fuels. Mr. Person commented that in the City's commitments to national environmental performance track, they report the theoretic reduction in particulate emission between using standard diesel and 20% biodiesel in the City fleet. At the start of the project, a strategic decision was made to include only those indicators with long-term relevance. If the biodiesel program were dropped, there would then be no data to report. Board Member Leung argued that a key component is visibility to encourage the use of alternate fuels. Some indicator of alternative fuel use would encourage everyone to consider this. Mr. Person replied that they can report on what

the City is doing, but wondered how they could get the data on residents' use of alternative fuels. Mr. Person explained that there is currently no data on greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Person suggested that if Board Members want to discuss other indicators that would make the report more useful they should continue discussion throughout the year. Vice-Chair Munson suggested keeping the Sustainability Indicators Report as a standing agenda item.

4) REVIEW AND APPOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No applications from people wishing to join the EQAB subcommittees have been received to date.

Mr. Person explained that the subcommittees will review the applications and make their recommendations to EQAB. A discussion on the process for applications to EQAB and to the standing committees followed. Mr. Person noted that EQAB now has to submit a list of all standing committee members to Mayor and City Council for their approval at their annual retreat. In answer to a question from Board Member Gill, Mr. Person elaborated that members of EQAB must be Scottsdale residents, but that members of the standing committees are not required to be City residents, although there is a preference for candidates who either live or are in business or working in Scottsdale.

5) RECOMMENDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL "CHALLENGE" RESPONSE

6) EQAB STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION

Noting that a number of documents have been produced and are currently under discussion, Mr. Person suggested combining agenda items 5 and 6 to determine how to proceed. Vice-Chair Munson observed that Mr. Person had originally brought this matter before the Board and asked him to share the direction he feels the Board should take.

Mr. Person agreed that everybody wishes they had more information to be able to do a better job. For the innovation process, the environmental initiatives challenges presented to the City, he stated that the goal was to provide a sketchy outline of a process that EQAB and its subcommittees would go through to evaluate challenges presented to the Mayor or City Councilmembers. The process can be quite simple. Two members of the subcommittee concerned can meet with the person making the presentation to the City. If these committee members feel that the idea has merit they would bring it to the full subcommittee. If subcommittee members agree that the concept has merit, they would bring it to EQAB, which will decide what recommendation to make to Mayor and Council. EQAB and the subcommittees can also make short strategic direction statements about the Board's commitment to a greener City, stating that this will be the principle underlying the evaluation process.

Board Member McCay suggested that all the requests should be filtered from Mayor and Council through EQAB so that they are aware of all the suggestions. Over time these questions and responses will provide a useful database for future reference. Vice-Chair Munson noted that his suggestion covers these points. Mr. Person suggested this document should be shortened to one page and they should add an explanation of how issues will be dealt with by the subcommittees. He opined that the process does not need to be an elaborate system. Meeting agendas would be a simple way to track issues and responses. He stressed that he does not expect a high volume

of issues to deal with, but that Mayor and City Council are looking for timely responses. Board Member Leung proposed combining Vice-Chair Munson's document with the 12 aspirations that he drafted.

Mr. Person distributed a staff document, in which Board Member Leung's 12 aspirations have been reworked to fit with the City's environmental policy. The wording in this document is, "Continuously seek opportunities to enhance the quality of Scottsdale's natural and built environments." Mr. Person proposed that the Board adopt this statement. This is the City of Scottsdale's environmental policy, which is in conformance with the requirements of the International Organization for Standardization Environmental Management System (ISO 14001). The City's Environmental Management System Conformance Task Force approved this within the past month.

In response to a question from Board Member McCay, Mr. Person distributed a communication document which is posted on the City website and elsewhere. The City has made a commitment to communicate key elements of the environmental management system to the citizens. Staff would like the Board to approve adding the statement to this document. Board Member Leung suggested setting a specific goal on the lines of "to become the most sustainable city in the country." Discussion ensued.

Mr. Person clarified that the policy has been finalized. The other statements appearing in red on the draft document are authorized by the Mayor and City Council or City management. This document speaks of the quality of life in the City in strategic terms. Mr. Person clarified that currently EQAB has a mission statement, but no officially stated goals. These materials will be revisited at the January 2007 meeting. Vice-Chair Munson said he prefers to reserve discussion for the retreat. A philosophical discussion followed on the question of enhancing the quality of the natural environment and the meaning of "quality of life." Board Member Gill suggested that the goal should be stated as "to enhance and preserve the quality of Scottsdale's natural and built environment." Mr. Person clarified that staff had created this as a placeholder that can be modified after discussion by EQAB. He opined that the Board is at a point where it is poised to create something new. After discussion, the Board Members agreed that they need to hold a work session to refine the document.

In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Person offered to extract the process part of the document and email it to the Board Members so that they can be prepared for in-depth discussion at the next meeting. Vice-Chair Munson summarized that a special work session will be held to finalize the strategic plan. Discussion on the goal statement will be deferred until the next meeting. Mr. Person will circulate the process part of the white paper for comment with the ultimate goal of forwarding this to City Council.

Vice-Chair Munson asked that the notes from last strategic retreat, the draft strategic plan and the 12 aspirations be available at the January meeting.

8) **UPDATE - EvMS**

Mr. Person reported that staff recently attended EvMS Conformance Task Force. He and Mr. Kocisky are now certified as LEED auditors. The City's existing EvMS needed to be tweaked in order that it could pass an independent third-party audit, which is scheduled to take place by July 2007. All the core policies and procedures had to be changed. This is a requirement of ISO 14001. The Task Force approved the policies

staff worked on. Mr. Gawf stated that he strongly endorses the City's EvMS and asked the departmental general managers to cooperate with the Environmental Office.

For purposes of the audit by the independent third party, Mr. Person stated that the City organization has made a commitment to communicate key elements of the EvMS to the Board and the community.

9) **UPDATE - EnviroKids Fest '07**

For the benefit of new members Mr. Person described EnviroKids Fest. The date is April 25, 2007, close to Earth Day at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park. The date and the new venue are necessitated by the school district calendars, religious holidays, standardized testing, et cetera.

BOARD MEMBER LEUNG MOVED THAT FORMER EQAB MEMBER RANDY NUSSBAUM BE THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR ENVIROKIDS FEST 07. BOARD MEMBER MCCAY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

Mr. Person briefly reviewed EnviroKids Fest activities and how they relate to the state science curriculum standards for 4th graders.

10) **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Green Building Advisory Committee

Board Member McCay reported the Green Building Advisory Committee had been unsure about the request to make recommendations about environmental challenges, as discussed earlier in tonight's meeting. Ms. Fran Smith's document was distributed to the committee, which deals with the issue on a project level basis. However, some Committee members felt that this document did not satisfy the request they had received from City Council. They felt that more of a vision is needed, which could come out of EQAB's mission statement. Mr. Skidmore added that this led to discussion of a possible environmental forum and town hall meeting. City Councilmembers and top-level management would be invited to the environmental forum.

Board Member McCay reported that there was an issue with regard to paying the bills from the Green Building Expo. There was discussion regarding alternatives for next year's Expo. Mr. Person reminded the Board that the Green Building Expo must adhere rigidly to the City procurement process.

Water Advisory Committee

Vice-Chair Munson reported the Committee had met that morning. He and Mr. Don Manthe met with Councilman Jim Lane on Monday, December 18 to discuss the issue of salinity in reused water delivered to golf courses. He explained that sodium from water softeners, which is toxic to vegetation and harms soil structure is becoming an issue for the golf courses. He discussed possible solutions with the Water Department.

He will send a summary of these discussions to Councilman Lane. A study by the Water Department will be necessary. He opined that several people are thinking about this

problem, yet not communicating with each other. Discussion ensued on whether the Water Department or EQAB should respond and what their respective roles should be in this regard.

Vice-Chair Munson reported the Committee discussed the rebate incentive programs. He distributed a summary of water conservation operating statistics for the fiscal year to date through the quarter ended September 30, 2006.

Legislative changes requiring best management practices are in the offing. Vice-Chair Munson said he is prepared to testify if he can do this legally in accordance with City policy. Staff responded that he would need to become a registered lobbyist at the State Legislature in order to testify in his capacity as a member of EQAB. An alternative would be to testify as a Scottsdale citizen.

The grand opening of the Chaparral Water Treatment Plant is scheduled for January 9, 2007. Board Members McCay and Gill expressed interest in attending the ceremony. There will be open houses every Wednesday for a month following the opening.

Following a question by Board Member McCay, Vice-Chair Munson undertook to agendize putting the Water Advisory Committee on the website.

Energy Advisory Committee

Board Member Leung reported that the Energy Advisory Committee met to talk about alternative fuels. Mr. Danny Johnson, Fleet Manager, made a presentation. Board Member Leung distributed a report on fuel usage and fleet management.

The Energy Advisory Committee has three subcommittees: one to formulate an energy plan; one to benchmark the City of Scottsdale; and the third is for alternative fuels.

Board Member Leung reported that the Alternative Fuel Subcommittee met and has decided its purpose is to aim for 90 % clean fuel usage in the City by 2017. They believe that this goal is attainable, since the City is already at 50 to 60%. He noted that they are using the term "clean fuels" because they want Scottsdale to be energy independent and decrease emissions. Board Member Leung stressed that the group's focus is on the fuel, not the car. The subcommittee's role would be to provide help in education, publicity, promote recognition of the value of clean fuel use, and political aspects. A more detailed plan will be drafted within the next two months.

Mr. Skidmore commented that the introduction of biodiesel was relatively easy as vehicles did not need modification, nor was any investment in infrastructure required. The next step will require infrastructure and modifications to vehicles.

Mr. Basinger commented that Mr. Johnson should be formally congratulated.

BOARD MEMBER LEUNG MADE A MOTION THAT EQAB RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL PRESENT AN ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD TO MR. DANNY JOHNSON, FLEET MANAGER, IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EFFORTS TO FURTHER THE CITY'S USE OF CLEAN FUELS. BOARD MEMBER GILL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

Board Member McCay opined that publicity should accompany the award.

11) **UPDATES AND REMINDERS**

Board Member Suggestions for environmental topics on future agendas

Mr. Person announced that Mr. Randy Grant is resigning from the City effective January 26th. He was the founder of the Environmental Office in 1990 and was Chief Environmental Officer for several years. He served as the original staff liaison to the Environmental Quality Advisory Board. Mr. Person proposed inviting Mr. Grant to the next EQAB meeting to give a presentation on the history of the Environmental Office and his thoughts about his vision for the future of the environment in Scottsdale. At the same time EQAB could present him with an Environmental Excellence award.

BOARD MEMBER LEUNG MADE A MOTION THAT EQAB PRESENT RANDY GRANT WITH AN ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD. BOARD MEMBER GILL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO-(0).

11) **UPDATES AND REMINDERS**

The next Green Building lecture will be held on January 4, 2007 on Home Improvements and Green Remodeling.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will take place on Saturday, January 13, 2007. Anyone wishing to volunteer should email Mr. Person.

The Electronics Recycling Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2007.

The next Meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2007.

Mr. Person reminded the Board that this is the annual meeting and a chair and vice-chair will be appointed. EQAB members committee assignments will be made. All committees need to submit current rosters for approval by EQAB. A review and possible revision of the bylaws is also on the agenda.

12) **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A-V/Tronics, Inc.